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and that he may have written at least the last passage of his *Defensor Pacis Minor* in the same year. Marsiglio's "medical training" is mentioned rather abruptly (p. 28), and the reader given no earlier indication that he was a physician.

On page 39 is to be found an extremely clever piece of linguistic work which has revealed the meaning of those hitherto puzzling words "*alto passu*."

JAMES SULLIVAN.

*New York State Historian.*

*American Democracy versus Prussian Marxism.* A Study in the Nature and Results of Purposive or Beneficial Government. By CLARENCE F. BIRDSEYE. (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company. Pp. 371.)

In this compact little volume, rich in well selected facts and information throughout, the author has performed a useful service. The conception of socialism or of Marxism as a system of tyranny, as Bebel, Hyndman and their ilk aver, is not new; this new laurel for Prussianism is somewhat novel.

The liberal aspect of democracy in respect to many types of action is familiar. The idea, however, of the reach of democracy in allowing to the individual the basic right to own and operate in industry, compared to the Marxian tyranny that denies this basic right, attracts attention. Mr. Birdseye further contrasts Bolshevism, Spartacism and the I. W. W., "the legitimate brats of Prussian Marxism," with the other "members of the trinity, Prussian militarism and Prussian commercialism." The latter are at least orderly, impartial to all classes and prosperous. Marxism as operating in Russia offers none of these. In sharp contrast to these two systems stands American constructive, purposive democracy. The author seizes strong ground in stating that "Marxism like democracy has laws of life and growth" and will develop according to type. The greater part of the volume is occupied in tracing the practical results of American purposive government leading to the general welfare. Two chapters briefly relate Marxian methods to Prussian methods of coercion and terrorism.

In chapters eight to nineteen the actual achievements in welfare work and public control are set forth illustrative of the value of the guiding and stimulating influences of purposive government. Chapters twenty and twenty-one emphasize the need of reasonable restraint

on industry by public regulatory agencies. The reverse side is shown in chapter twenty-one, where the checks operating on government are discussed. Several chapters are devoted to those changes whereby democratic institutions reflect the altered conditions of social and economic life. Attention might be called to the rather meager space devoted to "Prussian Marxism," but since, as Hilquit says, there never has been any socialism of Marxian or any other type, more words were scarcely necessary. Mr. Birdseye has also no doubt followed correct pedagogy in stressing the positive and leaving the negative side to shift for itself. The book should be highly useful in the comparative study of institutions.

W. B. GUTHRIE.

*College of the City of New York.*

*Liberalism in America. Its Origin, Its Temporary Collapse, Its Future.* By HAROLD STEARNS. (New York: Boni and Liveright, Inc. 1919. Pp. x, 232.)

This volume comprises a general discussion of the nature and characteristics of Liberalism, a brief sketch of American Liberalism, an account of its "collapse," and finally a forecast of the probable future.

The core of Liberalism, the author believes, is first "respect for the individual and his freedom of conscience and opinion," and second "tolerance, belief in real freedom of speech and expression." Down to 1914, says Mr. Stearns, American Liberalism had suffered severely from race intolerance exhibited toward the colored man, and from what he calls "perverted moralism" in the form of the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors. But on the other hand, America's traditional hatred of all forms of servility and our practical and straightforward temperament had tended to drive us forward in spite of these factors.

With the war, he believes, Liberalism broke down before the onrush of military conditions. The conscription is the particular object of his denunciation in this connection, and to this he devotes much energy. But beyond this we did not know why we had gone to war; we were fighting for "something shadowy and unreal." Liberals were either seduced or intimidated and made no effective opposition to the war propaganda. Reason abdicated, he feels, and even pragmatism, which Mr. Stearns particularly mourns, failed to stem the tide. In rapid succession came conscription, espionage laws, liberty loan drives